

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00
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NSAE-00 SP-02 PM-04 INRE-00 /059 W
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O 302230Z MAR 77

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE
USIO GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SECTO 03055
FOR S/PRS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR POWELL; USIA FOR IPS/PE AND IEU

REF: STATE 56619

HEREWITH TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WHICH
FOLLOWED SECRETARY VANCE'S OPENING STATEMENT (SENT SEPTTEL)
AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 30, 2015 HOURS:

(BEGIN TEXT)

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK TYE
OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE ON U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK WE MADE PROGRESS IN THESE
NEGOTIATIONS AND THEY WERE USEFUL. I THINK THAT U.S.-
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SOVIET RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE GOOD. I HOPE IN THE
FUTURE WE CAN STRENGTHEN THOSE RELATIONS. NEEDLESS TO
SAY, I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT WE HAVE FAILED TO MAKE PROGRESS
IN WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST ESSENTIAL OF ALL THESE
AREAS--NAMELY, THE AREA OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS--BUT I
THINK THAT OUR RELATIONSHIPS WILL CONTINUEY99\$. WE WILL
CERTAINLY DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO CONTINUE TO TRY AND

STRENGTHEN RELATIONS.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, SIR?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES

QUESTION: IT MUST BE VERY EVIDENT, SIR, THAT WITHOUT THE SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSAL THAT THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY RATIONAL PERSON TO DRAW A CONCLUSION AS TO WHETHER THE UNITED STATES' PROPOSAL WAS PLAUSIBLE OR NOT AS A PROPOSAL MADE BETWEEN ADVERSARY NATIONS. IS THERE NOTHING THAT YOU CAN DO, SIR, TO GIVE US THE SPECIFICS WHICH WOULD TELL THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WHETHER THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE UNITED STATES WAS A PLAUSIBLE PROPOSAL?

SECRETARY VANCE: I CANNOT GIVE YOU AT THIS POINT ANY SPECIFIC NUMBERS. I THINK THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH IN TERMS OF THE OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSAL TO ANSWER THE QUESTION WHICH WE PUT, MR MARDER.

QUESTION: I WOULD DEFER WITH DUE RESPECT, SIR.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, DID THE SOVIET SIDE GIVE YOU ANY REASON TO HOPE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME FURTHER NEGOTIATION ON YOUR PROPOSAL AND ON THEIR PROPOSAL SO THAT YOU MIGHT FIND A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TWO?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE
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DISCUSSIONS. THAT'S ALL.

QUESTION: TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS MIGHT HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE FAILURE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS?

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, HUMAN RIGHTS DID NOT COME UP AFTER THE FIRST DAY. WE NEVER DISCUSSED IT AGAIN.

QUESTION: YOU DON'T THINK IT IN ANYWAY AFFECTED THEIR THINKING ON YOUR PROPOSALS?

SECRETARY VANCE: I DON'T BELIEVE IT DID. NO, I THINK IT STOOD ON ITS OWN FEET BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK THEM.

QUESTION: I'M NOT CLEAR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. IS ONE SIDE SUPPOSE TO COME UP WITH A NEW PROPOSAL OR WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? SPECIFICALLY?

SECSETARY VANCE: WHERE WE GO FROM HERE IS THAT I'M
HOPING THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS WHICH WE HAVE
MADE. WE THINK THAT THEY PROVIDE A REASONABLE BASIS FOR
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. WE WILL BE MEETING AGAIN. I HOPE
BY THAT TIME THERE WILL BE SOMETHING TO PUT ON THE
TABLE WHICH WILL PERMIT US TO MAKE PROGRESS.

QUESTION: DID THEY GIVE YOU SOME INDICATION THAT THEY
THINK THIS IS A BASIS, THAT YOUR PROPOSALS ARE A BASIS,
FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS?

SECRETARY VANCE: ALL THEY GAVE US TODAY WAS THAT THEY
SAID THEY DID NOT FIND IT ACCEPTABLE.

QUESTION: DID THEY EXPAND ON THAT, SIR, AT ALL OR JUST
SAY THEY DID NOT FIND IT ACCEPTABLE?

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SECRETARY VANCE: THEY SAID THEY DID NOT FIND IT
ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THAT DID NOT COINCIDE WITH THEIR VIEW
OF WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS AN EQUITABLE DEAL.

QUESTION: IS IT STILL POSSIBLE, SIR, TO THINK TO REPLACE
SALT I BY OCTOBER WHEN IT EXPIRES?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, I THINK IT'S STILL POSSIBLE. I
WOULD COME BACK TO THE POINT THAT THE DEFERRAL PROPOSAL
IS A PROPOSAL WHICH IS BASB
UPON WHAT WAS AGREED TO AT
VLADIVOSTOK AND SIMPLY PUTS ASIDE THE VERY DIFFICULT
ISSUES OF BACKFIRE AND THE CURISE MISSILE, AND ONE COULD
SIGN THAT AND MOVE IMMEDIATELY ON TO THE MORE COMPLEX
PROBLEMS WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE
PROPOSAL IN SALT II.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, DID THEY THEN GIVE YOU AN
INDICATION THAT THE DEFERRAL PROPOSAL MIGHT BE A BETTER
BASIS FOR FURTHER TALKS THAN THE COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL?
DID THEY MAKE A DISTINCITION BETWEEN THE TWO REJECTED PROPOSALS?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE DID NOT AMAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN
THE TWO.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, WILL YOU BE ISSUING A COMMUNIQUE
ON OTHER AREAS SUCH AS THE MIDELE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA...?

SECRETARY VANCE: WE PROBABLY WILL BE ISSUING A COMMUNIQUE,
YES.

QUESTION: ARE YOUR MEETING CONTINUING TONIGHT TO START THE COMMUNIQUE?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES.

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QUESTION: WHERE WIL THE MEETINGS BE BETWEEN YOU AND MR GROMYKO?

SECRETARY VANCE: WE HAVEN'T FINALLY AGREED. IT WILL BE SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE.

QUESTION: COULD YOU AMPLIFY, SIR, ON THE MEETINGS THAT ARE CONTINUING TONIGHT?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE ONLY MEETING IS ON THE DRAFT OF THE COMMUNIQUE.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, WILL YOU LEAVE MOSCOW WITHOUT HAVING ACHIEVED THAT GENERAL FRAMEWORK?

SECRETARY VANCE: THAT IS CORRECT. WE WILL LEAVE WITHOUT HAING ACHEVED THAT GENERAL FRAMEWORK. I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO DO SO.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, YOU TOLD US TWO DAYS AGO THAT THE SOVIETS HAD PUT ON THE TABLE A SLIGHTLY MODUFIED VERSION OF THE JANUARY 1976 PROPOSAL. IS THAT STILL ON THE TABLE...?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES.

QUESTION: WE HAVE TWO AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND A SOVIET PROPOSAL?

SECRETARY VANCE: THAT'S RIGHT.

QEUSTION: MR SECRETARY, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT AGREEMENT ON SOME STRATEGIC ARMS PROPOSALS NOW STILL REMAINS A PREREQUISITE OR A CONDITION FOR A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND LEONID BREZHNEV?

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SECRETARY VANCE: I DON'T WANT TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON THAT

NOW. I THINK THAT I SHOULD LEAVE THAT FOR THE FUTURE.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, DO YOU THINK THAT TODAY'S FAILURE
WILL RESULT IN THE ACCELERATION OF THE ARMS RACE ON THE PART
OF BOTH COUNTRIES?

SECRETARY VANCE: I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE NOT. I THINK THAT
IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF THERE WOULD BE AN ACCELERATION OF
THE ARMS RACE. THIS WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF NEITHER
SIDE NOR IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY, DID WE EXPRESS AN OPINION AS

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT
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USIO GENEVA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SECTO 03055

FOR S/PRS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL; USIA FOR IPS/PE AND IEU

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)
SUBJECT: SECVISIT: SECRETARY'S MARCH 30 PRESS CONFERENCE (PART TWO)

REF: STATE 056619

HEREWITH TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WHICH
FOLLOWED SECRETARY VANCE'S OPENING STATEMENT (SENT SEPTTEL)
AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 30, 2015 HOURS:

TO THEIR PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE AND, IF NOT, WHAT IS
THE STATE OF PLAY? IS IT FOR US TO COME UP WITH A NEW PROPOSAL
OR FOR THEM TO AMEND THEIR PROPOSAL OR...?
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SECRETARY VANCE: YES, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL.

QUESTION: THAT WAS DISCUSSED TODAY?

SECRETARY VANCE: NOT TODAY, BUT WE HAVE REACHED A DISCUSSION.

QUESTION: MR. VANCE, YOU WERE SAYING THAT OUR RELATIONS
WERE NEVERTHELESS GOOD DESPITE YOUR INABILITY TO REACH AN
AGREEMENT ON SALT. I MUST SAY IT SEEMS TO STRAIN CREDIBILITY,
THAT STATEMENT. IT WOULD SEEM TO, I THINK, MOST
OF US THAT THE MAIN TOPIC HERE WAS A COLLAPSE IN THE SALT
NEGOTIATIONS. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO POSSIBLE COMPROMISE
ON THIS, AND I WOULD THINK THAT RELATIONS WERE WORSE THAN
ANY TIME IN RECENT YEARS. WHERE IS THE RELATIONSHIP GOOD
GIVEN THE FACT OF THE CENTRAL QUESTION THAT THERE IS
ABSOLUTELY NO AGREEMENT?

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, I THINK, MR. GWERTZMAN, THAT WE HAVE
MADE, AS I INDICATED EARLIER, PROGRESS IN A NUMBER OF OTHER
AREAS THAT I OUTLINED TO YOU. THE NATURE OF THE TALKS WAS
AT NO TIME ACrimonious OR UNBUSINESSLIKE. I THINK THAT THE
TASK REMAINS BEFORE US TO TRY AND FIND A WAY TO REACH
AGREEMENT IN THE STRATEGIC AREA AND WE BOTH SHOULD BEND
OUR EFFORTS TO THAT END.

QUESTION: WHAT PROGRESS DO YOU MEAN? ARE YOU REFERRING
TO THE WORKING GROUPS OR THE SUBJECT AREA OF THE MIDDLE
EAST...?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, TO THESE VARIOUS OTHER MATTERS
WHICH WE DISCUSSED.

QUESTION: CAN YOU GIVE ME SPECIFICS ON THAT? DID YOU
FIND OUT WHAT GROMYKO MEANT THE OTHER DAY?

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SECRETARY VANCE: YES, I DID. HE DID NOT MEAN WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN THE PAPERS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT DID HE MEAN?

SECRETARY VANCE: HE DID MEAN THAT HE FELT THAT THE PLO SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY TALKS.

QUESTION: HE DID OR DID NOT?

SECRETARY VANCE: HE DID MEAN THAT THEY SHOULD BE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DID YOU MAKE ANY PROGRESS ON REUNIFICATION OF DIVIDED FAMILIES? AND WHAT WAS THE ANSWER?

SECRETARY VANCE: THEY ARE TAKING IT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HAVE YOU REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT ALREADY TONIGHT ON THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS?

SECRETARY VANCE: I HAVE SENT A MESSAGE TO HIM INDICATING THAT THE PROPOSALS WE PUT FORWARD HAVE BEEN UNACCEPTABLE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU HELP, SIR, ON SOME PHYSICAL THINGS?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, SURE.

QUESTION: HOW LONG DID THE MEETING LAST?

SECRETARY VANCE: YOU MEAN THIS AFTERNOON? I THINK ABOUT AN HOUR.

QUESTION: DID MR. BREZHNEV, WAS HE PRESENT ALL THE TIME?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, HE WAS.

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QUESTION: DID HE PARTICIPATE MUCH IN THE DISCUSSIONS?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, HE DID. HE DID ALL THE TALKING.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US ANYTHING MORE PHYSICALLY ABOUT...

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, IT WAS SIMILAR TO THE OTHER MEETINGS WHICH WE HAVE HAD. ON THE SOVIET SIDE, MR BREZHNEV DID THE TALKING AND ON OUR SIDE I DID THE TALKING FOR OUR GROUP.

QUESTION: WAS THERE ANY NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE IN MOOD BETWEEN MONDAY'S DISCUSSION BY MR. BREZHNEV AND TODAY'S DISCUSSION BY HIM?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY MAJOR DIFFERENCE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT WAS THE CENTRAL REASON, PERHAPS YOU ANSWERED IT SOMEWHERE IN THIS DISCUSSION, THAT THE SOVIETS GAVE YOU FOR THEIR REJECTION FOR BOTH PROPOSALS THAT THE UNITED STATES PUT FORTH?

SECRETARY VANCE: IT WAS THEIR VIEW THAT THE DEFERRAL PROPOSAL DID NOT ACCORD WITH VLADIVOSTOK. IT IS OUR VERY CLEAR VIEW THAT IT DOES ACCORD WITH VLADIVOSTOK BECAUSE BACKFIRE AND CRUISE MISSILES WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD AND THEY REMAINED UNSETTLED ISSUES. SO THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND OURSELVES ON THAT MATTER.

QUESTION: WAS THERE A CENTRAL DISPUTE, SIR, ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO AIDE-MEMOIRES OUT OF VLADIVOSTOK, THE ONE ON BALLISTIC MISSILES, AND THE AMERICAN VERSION MENTIONING BALLISTIC MISSILES AND THE SOVIET VERSION MENTIONING UNCLASSIFIED

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JUST MISSILES?

SECRETARY VANCE: THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, YES.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US, SIR, WHAT THEIR REASON WAS FOR REJECTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE, SIR?

SECRETARY VANCE: THEY REALLY SHOULD SPEAK ON THIS THEMSELVES, BUT I WILL TELL YOU THAT THEIR INDICATION IS THAT THEY DO NOT FEEL THAT, AS THEY PUT IT, THAT IT IS AN EQUITABLE PACKAGE. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS EQUITABLE AND IT DOES ATTACK THE CENTRAL QUESTIONS WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN SEEKING A REAL ARMS CONTROL.

QUESTION: IS THAT PROPOSAL STILL ON THE TABLE AND NEGOTIABLE?

SECRETARY VANCE: IT IS. ALL PROPOSALS ARE STILL ON THE TABLE.

QUESTION: IS IT YOUR VIEW, NEGOTIABLE? OR DID THEY REJECT IT IN THE BASIC FORM AS PRESENTED?

SECRETARY VANCE: I WOULD HOPE AS THEY REFLECT ON IT THAT THEY WILL FIND MERIT IN IT AND WE WILL FIND A WAY

TO GET BACK TOGETHER AGAIN AND START TALKING PRETTY SOON.

QUESTION: SIR, WITH RESPECT, IS THAT (INAUDIBLE) THE REASON YOU FEEL WE CAN STILL GET AN AGREEMENT BY OCTOBER? IS THERE ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC AS TO WHY YOU FEEL THE OCTOBER DEADLINE IS STILL MANAGEABLE?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I THINK THAT THE REASON IS THAT I FEEL IT IS STILL MANAGEABLE, IF THE PARTIES GET TOGETHER AND REALLY PUT THE POLITICAL WILL BEHIND IT, AN AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY OCTOBER.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, CAN YOU GET THE STATISTICS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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WE'VE BEEN ASKING YOU FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS? HOW DEEP IS DEEP?

SECRETARY VANCE: I REALLY DON'T THINK I CAN GIVE THIS TO YOU. I WILL TRY AND GIVE IT TO YOU AT SOME POINT LATER IF I CAN, BUT I JUST CAN'T DO IT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DID YOU FORMALLY TELL THE SOVIETS THAT WE ALSO FOUND THEIR PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE AND COULD YOU TELL US WHY WE DO FIND THEIR PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE REASONS THAT WE HAVE FOUND THEIR PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE IS THAT IT DOESN'T DEAL PROPERLY WITH THE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE.

QUESTION: DID YOU DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE SALT I AGREEMENT BEYOND THE END OF OCTOBER?

SECRETARY VANCE: WE DID NOT DISCUSS THAT, NO.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY...

SECRETARY VANCE: WE'LL HAVE TWO MORE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: ANY INDICATION THAT THEY WOULD SETTLE FOR A REDUCTION THAT WAS LESS DEEP THAN THE ONE YOU PROPOSED? A SMALLER REDUCTION?

SECRETARY VANCE: AS I SAY, NO COUNTER PROPOSALS WERE MADE BY THEM TODAY.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WAS IT SUGGESTED AT ALL THAT AT ANY TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS THAT YOU WOULD RETURN TO MOSCOW TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING ON THE SUBJECT?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, BUT AS I INDICATED, MR. GROMYKO

AND I ARE GOING TO MEET IN MAY AND ONE OF THE SUBJECTS

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WHICH WILL COME UP AT THAT TIME WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF DEEP ARMS
LIMITATIONS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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